

REMARKS

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Office Action, claims 1-3, 5-16 and 18-25 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Wang et al. (USPN 6,527,767). This rejection is respectively traversed based on the following remarks.

Wang et al. disclose two non-coupled, completely separate devices, i.e., an endocardial catheter and an epicardial probe, which can be aligned or guided into position via one or more magnets (see col. 10, lines 35-45). In one embodiment, a magnet in the epicardial device attracts a magnetic or metallic element in the endocardial device (see col. 3, lines 20-22).

A rejection based on anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 requires all of the elements recited in the claims of the invention to be found within the four corners of the cited reference. Claims 9 and 12 were cancelled without prejudice. Claims 1 and 10 were amended without prejudice. Claim 1 now includes the limitation that the first and second ablation components are coupled together, wherein the first and second components are provided with means mounted to and extending along the first and second components for magnetically attracting the first and second ablation components toward one another. This limitation is important because this limitation is not found within the four corners of the Wang et al. reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 1-3 and 5-14 as being anticipated by Wang et al. should be overcome.

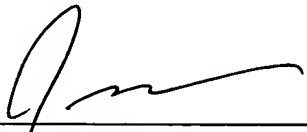
Claims 15-25 include the limitation that the first and second ablation components are provided with at least one magnet mounted to at least one of the first and second components and the first and second components are movably joined together. This limitation is important because this limitation is not found within the four corners of the Wang et al. reference. Therefore, the rejection of claims 15-16 and 18-25 as being anticipated by Wang et al. should be overcome.

Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Office Action, claims 4 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Wang et al. (USPN 6,527,767) in view of Scheinman et al. (USPN 5,429,131). This rejection is respectively traversed based on the following remarks.

If any additional fee is required in connection with these papers, please charge such fee to
Deposit account No. 13-2546.

Date: October 6, 2005

By 

James R. Keogh
Reg. No. 44,824
MEDTRONIC, INC.
MS LC340
710 Medtronic Parkway
Minneapolis, MN 55432
Tel. 763.391.9867
Fax. 763.391.9668
Customer No. 27581